



# FEDERAL ELECTION 2019

Faith, voting and political engagement

## Praying during elections

Scripture exhorts us to pray for our leaders. We can actively invite God to work in the hearts and minds of all Canadians as we consider the future of our country.

**➤ Pray for our elected officials**  
We ask God's blessing on our elected officials and all who will be elected.

**➤ Pray for candidates**  
Elections are an important time for candidates to discover what matters to their constituents. Pray for wisdom, grace and protection.

**➤ Pray for voters**  
We pray for a greater understanding of our role as citizens and of our life together.

**➤ Pray for our country**  
We ask God to grant us peace and a love of neighbour that perseveres through our differences.

**"Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity."**

1 TIMOTHY 2:2 (NLT)



*The EFC is the national association of evangelical Christians in Canada, uniting Evangelicals to bless Canada in the name of Jesus.*

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RELIGIOUS FREEDOM



SANCTITY OF LIFE



CHURCH & MISSION

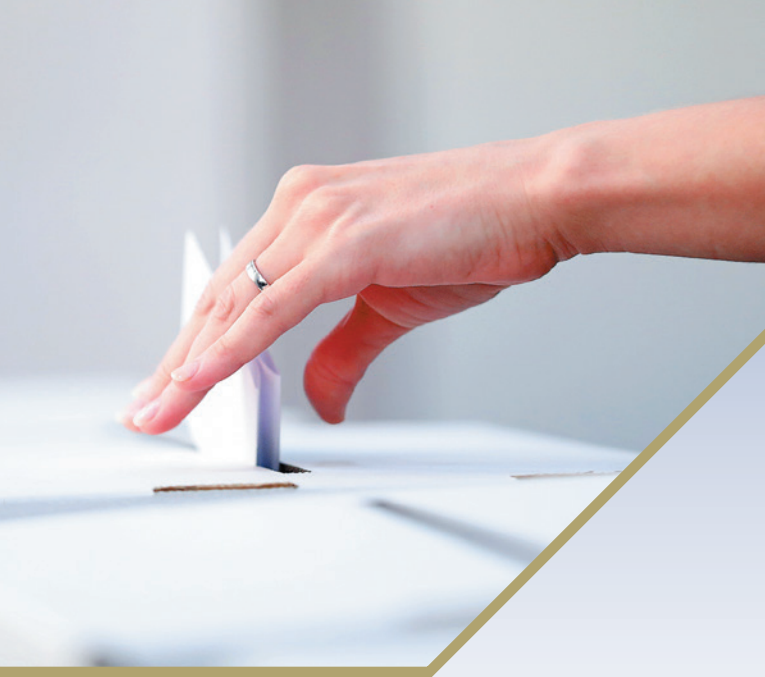


FAMILY & COMMUNITY



CARE FOR THE VULNERABLE





## Voting matters

When Christians vote, we actively seek the good of those around us and our country (Jeremiah 29:5-6). Our participation in discussions about public policy and politics, like our engagement in all of life and community, is part of our witness.

Voting is one way Christians contribute to society and the public good. When we vote we recognize the profound influence politics has on the lives of all Canadians.

Public policy impacts our lives, influences the way we interact with one another, and helps shape the care and protection offered to our neighbours.

## Free election kit available

The EFC offers a complete election kit on its website at [www.TheEFC.ca/Election2019](http://www.TheEFC.ca/Election2019). Resources include issue summaries, guidelines on what churches can and can't do in elections, how to plan an all-candidates meeting, and more.

Visit [www.elections.ca](http://www.elections.ca) for a list of candidates and information on how and where to vote.

## How we can interact with electoral candidates

Hosting all-candidates meetings is one way citizens and churches can contribute to the electoral process.

Getting to know our candidates and their positions on important issues is a crucial step to voting well.

Consider asking questions like:

- What steps will you take to support freedom of conscience and religion in Canada?
- Would you limit children's access to online pornography through a government-mandated age verification system?
- What legal protections for pregnant women and their unborn children do you support?
- Do you support the current safeguards for Medical Assistance in Dying that protect vulnerable Canadians or would you expand access?
- Do you support the current prostitution laws that target the demand for paid sex?
- What measures do you propose to care for and protect the environment, in Canada and globally?

The EFC's full online election kit includes a guide on planning an all-candidates meeting and issue summaries with sample questions for candidates.

[www.TheEFC.ca/Election2019](http://www.TheEFC.ca/Election2019)

## What churches can and cannot do during elections

A church that is registered with the Canada Revenue Agency and able to issue tax receipts for donations must follow CRA guidelines in order to keep its charitable status.

Church staff, volunteers or members of a church are free to engage in political activity outside the church, with their own time and resources. But a church must be non-partisan, not supporting a particular party or candidate (even if they attend the church).

### CHURCHES CAN:

- Invite the congregation to pray for all of the candidates, to become informed and to vote.
- Hold an all-candidates meeting or invite all candidates to speak at the same event or service.
- Provide information on issues that flow from biblical teaching, as long as the church does not link its views to any party or candidate.

### CHURCHES CANNOT:

- Promote or oppose a particular candidate or political party or encourage its members to vote for them, including distributing their literature or posting signs on church property.
- Use its resources to support a particular candidate or party or collect an offering for a candidate or a party.
- Invite candidates to speak at different times or at separate events or services.
- Highlight or publish how one particular party or candidate voted on a given issue.
- Link its views on issues of concern with those of a particular party or candidate.
- Allow party memberships to be sold on church premises.